

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05116 241433Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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P 241346Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 286

UNCLAS BERLIN 5116

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APUB, GE

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE GDR

REF: BECKER-GROVE LETTER, JAN 10, 1975

FOR EUR/CE-JOHN P. BECKER

1. EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON DRAFT GDR BACKGROUND NOTES FORWARDED
UNDER COVER OF REFERENCED LETTER FOLLOW:

PAGE 1. CAPITAL:

ADD LAST SENTENCE "WE HOLD THAT GREATER BERLIN (INCLUDING ALL
FOUR OCCUPIED SECTORS) IS UNDER FOUR-POWER CONTROL."

POPULATION: LEIPZIG IS 547,000; DRESDEN 502,000. POPULATION
OF GDR IS 16,950,000. LATTER FIGURE SHOULD PRECEDE "(INCLUDING
1,089,000 IN EAST BERLIN).

PAGE 2. ADD "MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS" AT END OF PARAGRAPH
DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE.

PAGE 3 OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE IS CURRENTLY U.S. \$1-
MARK DER DDM 2.35. UNDER MEMBERSHIP, AFTER IAEA ADD "CONFERENCE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
(CSCE) AND THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE
REDUCTIONS (MBFR)." ALSO ADD FOLLOWING REFERENCE BETWEEN
SONTHEIMER AND WEBER TITLES: "THOMAS, RUEDIGER, MODELL DDR:
DIE KALKULIERTE EMANZIPATION MUNICH, 1972".

PAGE 4. SUGGEST FIRST SENTENCE END WITH WORDS "... WHICH
THE U.S. DOES NOT RECOGNIZE AS BEING A CONSTITUENT PART OF
THE GDR."

PAGE 6. ADD SUBTITLE "FORMATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05116 241433Z

GERMANY" BEFORE FIRST FULL PARAGRAPH AND SUBTITLE "FORMATION

OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" BEFORE THE LAST PARAGRAPH ON THIS PAGE.

PAGE 7. RECOMMEND THAT LAST TWO SENTENCES BE CHANGED TO READ:

"THE USSR AND ITS EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THE GDR. APART FROM ITS COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS, HOWEVER, THE GDR REMAINED LARGELY UNRECOGNIZED BY NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES UNTIL 1972-1973. IT IS NOW RECOGNIZED BY 114 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S., FRG, BRITAIN AND FRANCE."

PAGE 8. ADD SUBTITLE AT TOP OF PAGE: "INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GDR". "IT WAS QUICKLY SUPPRESSED AND RESULTED IN EVEN STRICTER SED SECURITY CONTROLS OVER THE POPULATION, CONTROLS WHICH TO THIS DAY ARE AMONG THE MOST STRINGENT IN EASTERN EUROPE." (AMENDMENT OF LAST SENTENCE, SECOND PARAGRAPH)

PAGE 10. INSERT NAME OF ALFRED NEUMANN (SED), FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AFTER THAT OF GUENTER MITTAG.

PAGE 11. INSERT ABOVE MINISTER OF DEFENSE THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OSKAR FISCHER (SED). ADD SENTENCE AFTER FIRST PARAGRAPH ON POLITICAL CONDITIONS: "HIS SUCCESSOR IN 1971 WAS ULBRICHT'S LONG-TIME DEPUTY, ERICH HONECKER. IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, HONECKER HAS INTRODUCED MEASURES INTENDED TO MAKE THE AVERAGE EAST GERMAN'S LIFE MORE COMFORTABLE AND REWARDING."

PAGE 12. LAST SENTENCE WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE IF "TWO OR THREE" WAS SUBSTITUTED FOR "FOUR".

PAGE 13. ERNST THAELMANN SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED AS "HEAD OF THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY BEFORE 1933", RATHER THAN AS "A COMMUNIST HERO OF WORLD WAR II." REMOVE QUOTATION MARKS AROUND WORDS OTHER PARTIES IN LAST SENTENCE.

PAGE 14. OMIT QUOTATION MARKS AROUND WORD ELECTORATE IN FIRST PARAGRAPH.

PAGE 15. LAST TWO SENTENCES OF SECOND PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH, "SEVENTY PER CENT OF A TOTAL TRADE VOLUME OF SOME \$15 BILLION IN 1973 WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EAST EUROPE, ABOUT HALF OF THAT PORTION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE FRG HAD BEEN THE GDR'S SECOND LARGEST SINGLE TRADING PARTNER UNTIL 1971 BUT IN 1972 AND 1973, AT LEAST, SURRENDERED THIS DISTINCTION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND."

PAGE 16. FIRST COMPLETE PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE REPLACED BY, "AN IMPORTANT ADJUNCT TO EAST GERMAN/WEST GERMAN TRADE IS THE SO-CALLED "SWING" CREDIT ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE FRG UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BERLIN 05116 241433Z

EXTENDS TO THE GDR A VERY LARGE, INTEREST- FREE CREDIT. CURRENTLY, THIS TOTALS SOME \$275 MILLION. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SWING WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN DECEMBER 1974 WHEN THE GDR ANNOUNCED CERTAIN POLITICAL CONCESSIONS TO THE FRG IN RETURN FOR A LIBERALIZATION OF THE SWING CREDIT AND ITS EXTENSION THROUGH 1981."

PAGE 17. ADD "(1974" TO LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH ONE. ADD "GREAT POWER DETENTE AND " AFTER "AS A RESULT OF" IN LAST

SENTENCE OF MIDDLE PARAGRAPH.

PAGE 18. SECOND SENTENCE OF SECOND PARAGRAPH SHOULD READ, "THESE LED IN SEPTEMBER 1971 TO THE CONCLUSION AND THE INITIAL-ING OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT ON BERLIN." INSERT "AND RELATED DOCUMENTS WERE" BETWEEN "QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT" AND "SIGNED IN BERLIN" IN THIRD PARAGRAPH.

PAGE 19. FIRST SENTENCE SHOULD READ, "THE FIRST DISCUSSIONS PREPARATORY TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND...." AMBASSADORS WERE ACCREDITED ON DECEMBER 20, RATHER THAN DECEMBER 21.

PAGE 20. REPLACE WORDS "THE CITY" IN SECOND SENTENCE OF FIRST PARAGRAPH WITH "WEST BERLIN." IN PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH, POPULATION OF WEST BERLIN IS 2.1 MILLION RATHER THAN 2 MILLION. LAST TWO SENTENCES OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHOULD READ: "THE INFAMOUS 28-MILE LONG BERLIN WALL, CONSTRUCTED BY THE GDR, DIVIDES THE TWO PARTS OF THE CITY. ACCESS THROUGH THE WALL IS RESTRICTED TO EIGHT CROSSING POINTS AND IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED BY THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES."

PAGE 21. MIDDLE INITIAL OF BLOCH IS "S". "JR." SHOULD BE APPENDED TO WOLF'S NAME. ADD TO ADDRESS "TELEPHONE: 22 02 741."

2. USBER/EAS HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW TEXT AND ITS COMMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN FOREGOING. COOPER

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